

Figure 1 consists of 12 subplots, labeled (a) through (l), each showing the growth of *E. coli* O157:H7 in ground beef over a 14-day period. The y-axis for all plots is \log_{10} CFU/g, ranging from 0 to 10. The x-axis is time in days, ranging from 0 to 14. Subplot (a) is the control, showing a steady increase in bacterial growth from approximately 10^1 to 10^8 CFU/g. Subplots (b) through (l) show the effect of various treatments: (b) 100% NaCl, (c) 100% NaOH, (d) 100% H_2O_2 , (e) 100% Acetic acid, (f) 100% Citric acid, (g) 100% Lactic acid, (h) 100% Malic acid, (i) 100% Tartaric acid, (j) 100% Succinic acid, (k) 100% Fumaric acid, and (l) 100% Gluconic acid. All these treatments result in a significant reduction in bacterial growth, with most plots showing a decrease to below 10^1 CFU/g by day 14. The growth curves for the treated samples are generally lower and flatter than the control curve.

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